He received nominations for the [Nobel Prize in Literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature) every year from 1902 to 1906 and for the [Nobel Peace Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Peace_Prize) in 1901, 1902, and 1909. Tolstoy never having won a Nobel Prize was a major [Nobel Prize controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_controversies#1902%E2%80%931910), and remains one.

Tolstoy's [*War and Peace*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_and_Peace) (1869) and [*Anna Karenina*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Karenina) (1878)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#cite_note-9) are often cited as pinnacles of [realist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary_realism) fiction[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#cite_note-Britannica-4) and two of the greatest novels ever written.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#cite_note-:8-5)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#cite_note-:7-6)

 [Virginia Woolf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Woolf) called Tolstoy "the greatest of all novelists",[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#cite_note-:5-14) and [Gary Saul Morson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Saul_Morson) referred to *War and Peace* as the greatest of all novels.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#cite_note-:6-15)